

## **GEORGETOWN LAW**

**Abbe Smith** Professor of Law

July 1, 2019

Elizabeth A. Herman, Deputy Disciplinary Counsel Office of Disciplinary Counsel Board on Professional Responsibility District of Columbia Court of Appeals 515 5th Street NW Building A, Suite 117 Washington, DC 20001

To the Office of Disciplinary Counsel:

On February 20, 2017, we filed a disciplinary complaint against Kelly Anne Conway (listed under her name before marriage as Kellyanne E. Fitzpatrick) under DC Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c). To our knowledge, this complaint has not yet been acted upon by the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

As an addendum to our complaint, we would like to bring to your attention the June 13, 2019 report of the U.S. Office Special Counsel that charges Ms. Conway with repeated violations of the Hatch Act. The Report is found at

https://osc.gov/Resources/Report%20to%20the%20President%20re%20Kellyanne%20Conway%20Hatch%20Act.pdf

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) found that Ms. Conway violated the Hatch Act on numerous occasions. She disparaged Democratic presidential candidates while speaking in her official capacity during television interviews and on social media. OSC's letter to the President accompanying the report refers to Ms. Conway as a "repeat offender" and states: "Ms. Conway's violations, if left unpunished, would send a message to all federal employees that they need not abide by the Hatch Act's restrictions. Her actions thus erode the principal foundation of our democratic system—the rule of law." <a href="https://osc.gov/News/pr-19-10.pdf">https://osc.gov/News/pr-19-10.pdf</a>

The June 13, 2019 report follows a previous 2018 OSC report finding that Ms. Conway violated the Hatch Act in two separate television interviews.

As you know, DC Rule 8.4 (c) prohibits a lawyer from engaging in "conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation." These Hatch Act violations are further instances of violations of Rule 8.4 (c) in addition to those we cited in our 2017 complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

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